

ABSTRACT

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A hybrid stethoscope which enables a physician who places the bell of the
5 instrument on a body site in order to hear sounds emanating from an underlying
internal region, to concurrently see an analog waveform of these sounds. The
combined visual and aural impressions produced thereby facilitate an analysis of
the sounds and a diagnosis of the disorder giving rise thereto. Attached to the bell
so that it is viewable by the physician handling the bell is a self-sufficient visual
10 display module provided with a transducer that picks up sounds received by the
bell to yield an audio signal that is fed to an LCD display on whose screen is
exhibited the analog waveform of the sounds. Thus a physician hears sounds
emanating from an internal body region within the ambit of the bell and at the
same time effectively sees these sounds and thereby gains greater insight into the
15 character of the sounds and their medical significance.